



Leamy

BOROUGH OF SUDBURY



in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

including the report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1957

MEMBERS OF THE DRAINAGE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Alderman L.W. McQuhae ✕

The Mayor: Councillor E.A. Essex ✕

Councillor W.J. Jones.

Councillor W. Lewis.

Councillor R.C. Oliver ✕

Councillor Mrs. E.C.W. Rhodes Smith ✕

Councillor H. Talbot ✕

Councillor Col. G.L.J. Tuck, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.A.

Councillor S.W. Wood ✕

✕ Also members of the House Inspections Sub-Committee.

STAFF

Dr. G.P. Barclay M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

(note) Dr. Barclay is also M.O.H. for four other districts)

Mr. C.H.M. Hazlewood M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. Public Health Inspector
and Housing Maintenance Officer.

Miss A. Bryant - Clerical Assistant and shorthand typist.

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To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Sudbury:-

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration, the Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough for the year 1957.

The estimate of the Registrar General of the population of Sudbury shows little change from the previous year and the adjusted Birth and Death rates to be in reasonably close approximation to the country as a whole. Heart disease was again the most frequent cause of death with cancer second. In this respect it is interesting to note that in a third of all the Cancer deaths the site of the disease was in the lung.

1957 was happily free from any epidemic of notifiable disease apart from Infective Hepatitis but since the mode of transmission of this disease is obscure no comment is possible as to the reason for this.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and to record my thanks to the Town Clerk, Mr. R. Coates, the Borough Surveyor Mr. S.J. Blackwell and the Public Health Inspector Mr. C.H.M. Hazlewood for their co-operation during the year reviewed.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to Dr. D.A. McCracken, the County Medical Officer, for his invaluable assistance throughout the year particularly whilst I was on sick leave.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G.P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics

Figures in brackets throughout the report relate to the previous year.

Population, Registrar General's Estimate 6230 (6260) Area 1925 acres.
Number of inhabited houses 2903 (2857) Rateable Value £77,678 (£40,421)
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/57 £303. (£153 estimated)

Extracts of Vital Statistics for the year

Live Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	90 (77)	52 (41)	38 (36)
Illegitimate	3 (2)	3 (1)	- (1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	93 (79)	55 (42)	38 (37)
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Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	16.6	(12.6)
Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	17.4	(13.9)
England and Wales	16.1	(15.7)

Still Births

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	5 (3)	1 (2)	4 (1)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	5 (3)	1 (2)	4 (1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births	54.6	(38.0)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births England and Wales	22.4	(23.0)

Illegitimate Birth Rate 3.1 per cent.

Deaths registered in 1957

Death Rate (crude)	18.1	(15.2)
Death Rate (adjusted)	..	..	..	12.8	(10.6)
Death Rate of England and Wales	..			11.5	(11.7)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
112 (95)	56 (42)	56 (53)

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child-birth, pregnancy or abortion:

(a) from sepsis	..	..	..	0	(0)
(b) from other causes	..	..	..	0	(0)

Deaths of Infants under one year	Legitimate	2	(3)
	Illegitimate	1	(0)
		—	—
Total		3	(3)
		—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year:-

All infants per 1,000 Live Births..	..	32.1	(38.0)
England and Wales per 1,000 Live Births..	23.0	(23.8)	

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	0	(0)
Deaths from Whooping Cough	..	..	..	0	(0)

Causes of Death

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12 (4)	8 (9)	20 (13)
Deaths from Heart Diseases	17 (15)	22 (18)	39 (33)
Deaths from Bronchitis	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
Deaths from Pneumonia	9 (6)	3 (6)	12 (12)
Deaths from Nephritis	2 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)
Deaths from Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1 (0)	1 (0)	2 (0)
Deaths from Tuberculosis (other forms)	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Deaths from Leukaemia	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	5 (6)	11 (6)	16 (12)
Accidents (Motor Vehicle)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Accidents (Other)	1 (0)	1 (1)	2 (1)
Suicide	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
Homicide	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	7	14
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total all causes	56 (33)	56 (42)	112 (75)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service.

Two ambulances are stationed in the town.

NURSING IN THE HOME

The West Suffolk County Council's Home Nursing and midwifery service supply two District Nurses.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The West Suffolk County Council provide one centre in the town.

A Clinic is held weekly at the Youth Club premises, Stour Street, on Thursdays at 2 p.m. Welfare Foods are also distributed from this centre.

HOSPITALS

St. Leonards 43 beds.

Walnuttree 170 beds.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service directed by the Medical Research Council, at Ipswich, has given the Borough very generous service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection

It was necessary during 1957 to remove one person to hospital.

Prevention of and Control over
Infectious Diseases

Notifications received

<u>Disease</u>					<u>Cases Notified</u>	
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	7	(1)
Whooping Cough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	11	(14)
Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3	(269)
Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	(2)
Infective Jaundice .. .. .	..	..	..	..	34	(1)
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	0	(2)
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	0	(0)
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	(0)
Poliomyelitis (Non Paralytic) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	(0)
Food Poisoning .. .. .	..	..	..	..	0	(5)
Dysentery ... .. .	..	..	..	..	0	(47)
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	0	(1)

TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Fulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Fulmonary</u>			<u>Total</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>all typ</u>
Number of cases added during the year	0	2	2	0	0	0	2
Number of cases removed during the year	8	4	12	3	2	5	17
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	12	20	32	5	4	9	41

Reasons for removal from register are recovery, left district or death.

WATER SUPPLY - SEWERAGE AND SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

Contributed by Mr. S.J. Blackwell, A.M.I.Mun.E., A.M.Inst.H.E.

Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer

WATER SUPPLY

An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the district. Quarterly bacteriological analyses have been taken, in all cases the results have been excellent. The samples were taken after chlorination, which is carried out as a precautionary measure only.

No chemical analysis was taken during the year. Owing to the extreme hardness of the water there is no danger from dissolved lead.

The storage capacity of the high level tank is very poor in view of the number of properties it now serves and which are being continually added to its area. A new water tower with at least six hours capacity is required to replace it. Fortunately alternative arrangements can be made in case of a breakdown for all properties, with the exception of not more than a dozen, to be supplied with water to the ground floors from other sources of supply.

SEWERAGE AND SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

The new percolating filter and the new humus tanks came into operation during the year and the effluent was maintained at a reasonably good level particularly after adjustments were made to the depth of the dip boards in the settling tanks and sharing of the humus load with the irrigation area. The settling tanks are small and therefore, a strong liquor has to be treated on the percolating filters. The sludge drying capacity restricts the emptying of the settling tanks and the poor weather did not enable more than one lagoon to be cleared. Improvements in the sludge drying capacity would enable a satisfactory effluent to be maintained by more frequent emptying of the tanks and quicker drying of the sludge.

Factories Act 1937

1. - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occup. Pros.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	2	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	77	21	4	-
(iii) Other Premises in which sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	2	-	-
Total	81	25	5	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	10	9	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	1	1	-	1	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	11	10	-	1	-

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work

No. of Outworkers

Curtains and Furniture
hangings

1

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

C.H.M. Hazlewood M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Sudbury Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Being faced with compiling this contribution to the Medical Officer's Annual Report I am encouraged by the fact that having completed my third year of office as Public Health Inspector, I have a more adequate knowledge of the environmental health conditions prevailing in the Borough and am consequently in a better position to comment on the various aspects of the works connected with the Public Health Department thus presenting more than just a statistical report.

Whilst comments will generally be confined under the headings concerned I think it proper to observe in this introduction that in order to launch the Slum Clearance programme, proportionately a great deal more work has been put into this aspect of my work to the detriment of work in other spheres which if, as is open to question, are less urgent are nevertheless vital if health standards are to be not only maintained but improved. Such works include inspections to secure the continual repair and improvement of the very many sub standard houses not in current Clearance Area programmes and frequent inspections to food premises to see that not only are the Food Hygiene Regulations complied with but that advice may be given as regards structural improvements and the installation of new equipment and also that by education good hygienic habits and practices are learnt by those working in such premises who do not already appreciate the importance of thorough cleanliness wherever food is handled or prepared in preventing food poisoning.

There can be little dispute over the fact that unless a department has satisfactory staffing arrangements, so that the office can be run in an orderly and systematic manner, the work of the public health inspector in the field is bound to suffer.

Both the Medical Officer of Health and myself therefore, welcome the action by the Council in recognising this need by not only, as in the first instance appointing at the beginning of the year a full time Clerical Assistant to serve the Borough Surveyor as well as the Health Staff, but on subsequently realising the inadequacy of this arrangement

confining for the first time this Clerical post to the full time duties of the Public Health Department. We would here wish to record our appreciation to Miss Bryant for the competent and attentive manner with which she has carried out her duties during a difficult year.

As pleasing as it is to record the now satisfactory state of the administrative section I nevertheless feel most strongly that in carrying out a combined appointment as Public Health Inspector and Housing Maintenance Officer, that unless a satisfactory arrangement is made whereby an assistant can under supervision carry out the work of taking complaints and ordering repairs in so far as the Council's Housing Estate are concerned, the Public Health Inspector will not have adequate time at his disposal to carry out duties as are referred to in paragraph two above.

In making this comment I do not wish to detract from the valuable work performed by the former assistant to the Surveyor from time to time, but to emphasize that to be of real value an assistant, if not in full time occupation at this particular work, must devote at least 50% of his time to that work and at regular hours.

Concluding these remarks I would wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the interest they have shown in reports submitted throughout the year; their steadfastness when meetings, have, perforce carried on until the late hours of the evening; and for their encouragement during the year. I would also thank the Council for allowing me the privilege of attending my Association's Annual Conference and other meetings of interest at which I have had the opportunity of gaining knowledge and advice from listening to the views of more experienced members of my profession.

I am indebted to my colleagues on the staff for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

My report is continued under the headings covering the various subjects involved.

C. Hazlewood.

Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

In April I submitted my first official reports on Slum Clearance. Five areas, including a total of 42 houses, were represented as being unfit for human habitation as follows:-

CLEARANCE AREAS

	<u>Number Houses</u>	<u>Number of Occupants</u>
1. Cross Street and Mill Lane	9	16
2. Bulmer Road and Ballingdon Street	6	13
3. Grimwoods Yard	7	5
4. Church Street, Mill Lane and Plough Lane	16	30
5. Burkitts Lane	4	1
Totals	42	65

The Council by resolution declared these five areas to be Clearance Areas and made compulsory purchase orders in respect of the first two. Confirmation of all orders submitted has since been received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Eleven of these houses have already been demolished and the occupants re-housed by the Council.

Preliminary survey work in respect of other areas was commenced.

Whilst progress during the year on Slum Clearance work has been satisfactory, nevertheless, many families are still living in dwellings in other areas of such poor repair, so lacking in amenities and situated in such unattractive surroundings that surely no inhabitant within the borough can view them with any pride. The clearance of such houses and the re-housing of the occupants appears to me a matter of some urgency.

CLOSING ORDERS

Closing Orders were made under section 17 of the Housing Act 1957 on three properties.

HOUSING REPAIRS

Repairs were carried out at two properties after formal action by the Council under section 93 of the Public Health Act 1936. A further 26 properties were repaired following the service of written informal notice.

It should however, be observed that many minor repairs in addition to the aforementioned have been secured after an informal call on the owner or a telephone call.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

During the period 6th July to 31st December four applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and in all cases following the issue of Notices of proposal to issue a Certificate, undertakings were received from the landlords.

Having regard to the known poor state of repair of many properties in the town the number of applications received was very much less than anticipated.

It may well be that in some cases of poorer type property no notice of increase of rent was given by the landlord and in other cases repairs will have been carried out without recourse by the tenant to the local authority. There however, appears to be a marked reluctance generally on behalf of tenants to seek the intervention of the local authority. It is early yet to gauge the full impact of the Rent Act 1957 and whilst I feel that the description of Sudbury in a London Evening paper as "The Rainbow Town" is something of an exaggeration there has been a noticeable increase in the number of front doors newly painted in many a bright hue during the year. If this necessary superficial work has been accompanied by the attendance to internal defects in all cases then some improvement has been secured. There remain however, large numbers of sub-standard houses which because of dampness, poor lay-out and lack of facilities, will not be rendered any more suitable as living accommodation because some re-painting and minor repair work has been carried out.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Four improvement grants only were made during the year and these were all in respect of owner occupied houses.

Bearing in mind the large number of houses within the Borough without such necessary facilities as a hot water supply, bath, lavatory basin, deep sink, internal sanitation, lighted and ventilated foodstore or adequate artificial lighting to all parts of the house, this small number is far from encouraging.

There are many houses of good structure, pleasantly sited in good residential areas lacking some of these facilities. It is to be hoped that they will be provided with these facilities, whether under the Improvement Grant scheme or not, concurrently with the demolition of the Slum Clearance properties within the next few years.

A greater problem are those numerous properties of poorer structure, poorly sited and lacking most of the above facilities but not ripe for clearance at the present time. They cannot meet the full requirements of the Improvement Grant Scheme and it would appear that the best that can be achieved is for them to be kept in reasonable repair and perhaps secure some minor improvements to them until they are demolished at a later date.

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTION

Slaughtering was carried out at the three licenced slaughter-houses in the Borough.

The number of licenced slaughtermen was seven.

Details of Inspections and Condemnation are as follows:-

	<u>Cattle excluding cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	22	0	10	61	514
Number Inspected	22	0	10	57	508

	Cattle ex- cluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis</u>					
Whole Carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	33
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	.22	-	-	-	6.5
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole Carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2.7

98.3% of all animals killed were inspected.

Condemned meat was coloured before being disposed of, principally by burying at the Council's tip.

The only significant change on the figures for the previous year is the considerable reduction in the number of cattle killed. This was principally due to the absence through illness of one slaughterman which necessitated an increased purchase of dead meat from outside the area by the butcher concerned.

The Council agreed in December to adopt the Model Byelaws series 3 on the Sanitary Conditions and Management of Private Slaughterhouses. These have subsequently been confirmed by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Slaughterhouses are used solely by the butchers who own them and the kill at any of them is comparatively small. With one exception they were built many years ago and consequently are far removed from the standards of design, structure, layout, equipment and facilities associated with the modern abbatoirs, such as one envisages

as essential for premises in which a basic food is initially prepared. It is however, hoped that by the adoption of these byelaws at least a minimum standard of cleanliness can be secured.

The following additional foodstuffs were examined at wholesale and retail food shops and certificates given when they were voluntarily surrendered.

Canned Foods

Fruits	..	..	..	277 tins
Vegetables		..	..	309 tins
Soups	..	..	..	16 tins
Milk products		..	..	117 tins
Meat products		..	..	119 tins
Fish	..	..	..	77 tins
Total	..	..	..	915 tins

Various meat products to a total weight of 36 lb 4 ozs were condemned at grocers and butchers shops.

FOOD PREMISES

Milk and Dairies

Number of registered distributors	- 5
Designated licences in force	
Dealers Tuberculin Tested	- 3
Dealers Pasteurised	- 5
Supplementary Tuberculin tested	- 1
Supplementary pasteurised sterilized	1

All samples taken during the year passed the prescribed tests.

ICE CREAM

The few samples taken of nationally known Ice cream products were all reported as Grade 1.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The total numbers of the various types of food premises in the Borough are as follows:-

Cafes and Restaurants	- 12
Bakers and confectioners	- 5
Confectioners	- 12
Greengrocers	- 6
Grocers and general stores	- 26
Butchers	- 9
Fishmongers	- 6
Public Houses	- 28
Hotels	- 3
Clubs, school and factory canteens ..	- 7
Crisp factories	- 1
Frozen foods packing station ..	- 1
Premises manufacturing pork pies ..	- 1
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Total	<u>117</u>

In addition to the above markets are held on the Market Hill.

A fishmonger, grocer, greengrocers and confectioners attend regularly on Thursdays and greengrocers occasionally on Saturdays.

Premises registered for the storage and sale of Ice cream number 21.

Premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of Sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale number 16.

Fifty two premises were inspected during the year and subsequent improvements at these properties have included the installation of wash hand basins or sinks at 15 premises, the provision of gas or electric water heaters at 21 premises and structural alterations or re-decoration at 18 premises.

These improvements when coupled with the comparable improvements secured during the previous year indicate that there has at least been some progress at food premises within the borough in so far as their decorative standards and provision of washing facilities for employees is concerned.

It is, however, much to my regret that owing to many other duties less than 50% of the food premises in the town were visited as I am of the opinion that nothing short of the inspection of all food premises, whatever their standard, at least once a year with more frequent inspections for the majority of premises according to their individual standard, can be regarded as satisfactory.

Whilst there has been some improvement in the manner of storage of food at the Market, no satisfactory provision has yet been made for washing facilities as the Council has still under consideration plans for providing additional sanitary accommodation with adequate washing facilities at a site accessible to the market.

COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES

In my dual capacity of Public Health Inspector and Housing Maintenance Officer I have to spend a considerable time on matters associated with the Housing Estates.

The Council owned at the end of the year

	126 pre war council houses
	3 pre war council bungalows
	265 post war council houses.
	24 post war council bungalows.
	10 temporary prefabricated dwellings.
	5 other dwellings.
	<hr/>
Total	433
	<hr/>

The above figures include 46 new dwellings completed during the year.

An additional 36 properties came under the jurisdiction of the Local Authority as the result of the bequest of these houses to the Council by J.E. Francis Esq.

There were no new buildings under construction at the end of the year. The Housing committee has however, decided to proceed with the erection of a further 26 dwellings for slum clearance re-housing purposes. Recognising the difficulties associated with the large discrepancy, in many cases, between the rents of the houses to be cleared and the new dwellings to be provided the Council have given very careful consideration to the design, structure, fixtures and fittings of the new houses, so as to reduce costs to allow them in so far as is possible, to be let at a rent the displaced families could be expected to afford.

At the end of the year there were 167 applicants on the Councils Housing lists. 66 families became Council House tenants for the first time during the year, but it should be noted that only 20 of these new tenancies were due to rehousing made possible by vacation of the premises by a previous tenant.

It may also be of interest here to record that 35 of the families rehoused came from unfit houses which have been subsequently cleared, closed or rendered fit for habitation. The warm appreciation shown by many such families when at last they settle in their new home is a very real encouragement for time spent on housing work. This encouragement should be shared to by Committee members who spend many hours during a year considering applications.

Twenty three written reports on the conditions under which council house applicants were living were made to the Housing Sub-Committee either at the request of the Committee or of the applicant concerned. It is gratifying to note that seven of these applicants have since been rehoused.

It has been possible by attending the Sub-Committee dealing with Council house allocations to advise members in many instances as to the conditions under which applicants for consideration are living. An early knowledge of allocations and proper liason with the administrative officers has assisted in reducing the interval between tenancies and has led to savings in works of redecoration.

As a direct labour staff has since been inaugurated, 1957 was the last full year during which all repairs were carried out by a local contractor, over 400 separate complaints being dealt with. It was also the last year in which external repainting was put out to tender, 64 properties being repainted in a contemporary colour scheme.

One less pleasing item to record was that following the Council's decision to notify all tenants of the availability of fireguards complying with B.S.S. 2788, providing samples for their inspection and agreeing to carry out any necessary fixing without charge, only seven tenants asked the Council to obtain guards. It is surely too much to expect that of all the remaining tenants the majority would have guards that will amply protect them and their families under all eventualities.

REFUSE COLLECTION

It has been the practice of many inhabitants to put refuse out for collection in old oil drums, boxes, baths, pails etc. which beside being unhygienic and unsightly have hampered the speedy collection of refuse. In a drive to improve these unsatisfactory conditions 112 informal notices were sent to the persons concerned as a consequence of which 92 of these unsatisfactory containers have so far been replaced with new bins.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council continued to employ a full time rodent operator who carried out routine survey work and treatments of infested properties, including Council properties.

Thirty four business premises were treated, under agreement, when found to be infested.

Two sewer treatments were carried out employing an extended baiting system using acute poisons. The number of complete and partial prebait takes again dropped as compared with the previous year, indicating a continued small decline in the sewer population.

CESSPOOLS AND NIGHTSOIL

The number of properties within the Borough boundary with cesspool and septic tank drainage at the end of the year was 28. Pail closets were emptied twice a week from eight properties only.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

Disinfestation of 4 premises was found to be necessary during the year and disinfection of four other dwellings was carried out in order to allay the fears of the spread of infection of those concerned.

The bulldozer at the refuse tip caught fire and was burnt out on the 24th May and was out of action for the summer months. A chaseside shovel and a bulldozer were hired whilst the Council's bulldozer was being repaired. There was a period however, when refuse was not being covered and frequent spraying of the refuse was necessary.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There were no licences in being authorizing the erection and use of moveable dwellings during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT

One additional pet shop was licenced during the year to bring the total to three.

FACTORIES ACT

Details of inspections under the Factories Acts are recorded at pages 10-12. It will, therefore, suffice here to remark that again demands of other work on my time, have necessitated these inspections to be so few that virtually no control over conditions in all factories has been possible.

SWIMMING POOL

I would wish to conclude my report on a bright note and have pleasure in reporting that the swimming pool was as popular as ever, in fact there was an increase in the number of persons using the pool compared with the previous year as the table opposite shows.

All samples submitted for bacteriological examination were reported upon as satisfactory

Admissions to Swimming Pool for 1956 and 1957

	1956	1957
Adults	1028	2444
Children	7386	8841
Special rate children	-	1234
Season ticket holders	9084	9613
School bathers	5487	6861
Spectators	1440	2128
Season tickets sold		
Adults	35	29
Children	304	255

